

# CLAIMS

What is claimed as being new and desired to be protected by LETTERS PATENT of the United States is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A purse security system ~~[[110]]~~ for maintaining a purse locked until the presentation of a fingerprint of an approved user comprising, in combination:

a purse ~~[[62]]~~ with a first section ~~[[116]]~~ and a second section ~~[[118]]~~, the sections movable between a closed orientation for the secure maintenance of objects there within and an open orientation for adding and removing objects therefrom, each section having an inside ~~[[120, 122]]~~ and an outside ~~[[124, 126]]~~;

a touch pad ~~[[130]]~~ for fingerprint identification attached to the outside of the first section adapted to removably receive a fingerprint of a user;

a sensor ~~[[134]]~~ with at least one pre-stored fingerprint on the inside of the first portion operatively coupled to the touch pad and adapted to generate a signal when a fingerprint of the user on the touch pad matches a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor;

a solenoid ~~[[138]]~~ on the inside of the first section operatively coupled to the sensor, the solenoid having a plunger ~~[[140]]~~ reciprocable from a rest position to a withdrawn position

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in response to a signal from the sensor so long as a fingerprint of a user is on the touch pad which matches a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor, the plunger having a remote end ~~[[142]]~~; and

a latch ~~[[146]]~~ on the inside of the first section attached to the remote end of the plunger for reciprocation there with, the latch having a recess ~~[[148]]~~ therein facing the first section and an aperture ~~[[150]]~~ in the first section aligned with the recess;

a release assembly ~~[[154]]~~ for coupling purposes attached to the second section, the release assembly having an exterior region ~~[[166]]~~ on the outside of the second section and a finger ~~[[158]]~~ extending inwardly of the inside of the second section through the aperture with an enlarged end ~~[[160]]~~ removably positionable in the recess of the latch, the finger being securely retained within the recess of the latch to maintain the purse locked in the closed orientation when the latch and solenoid are in the rest position but with the finger being readily removable from the recess and latch to allow the purse to assume the open orientation when the latch and plunger are reciprocated to the withdrawn position in response to a fingerprint of a user on the touch pad matching a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor.

2. (Currently Amended) A suitcase security system ~~[[170]]~~ for maintaining a suitcase locked until the presentation of a fingerprint of an approved user comprising, in combination:

a suitcase ~~[[172]]~~ with a first section ~~[[116]]~~ and a second section ~~[[118]]~~, the sections movable between a closed orientation for the secure maintenance of objects there within and an open orientation for adding and removing objects therefrom, each section having an inside ~~[[120, 122]]~~ and an outside ~~[[124, 126]]~~;

a touch pad ~~[[130]]~~ for fingerprint identification attached to the outside of the first section adapted to removably receive a fingerprint of a user;

a sensor ~~[[134]]~~ with at least one pre-stored fingerprint on the inside of the first portion operatively coupled to the touch pad and adapted to generate a signal when a fingerprint of the user on the touch pad matches a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor;

a solenoid ~~[[138]]~~ on the inside of the first section operatively coupled to the sensor, the solenoid having a plunger ~~[[140]]~~ reciprocable from a rest position to a withdrawn position in response to a signal from the sensor so long as a fingerprint of a user is on the touch pad which matches a pre-stored

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fingerprint in the sensor, the plunger having a remote end ~~[[142]]~~;

a latch ~~[[146]]~~ on the inside of the first section attached to the remote end of the plunger for reciprocation there with, the latch having a recess ~~[[148]]~~ therein facing the first section and an aperture ~~[[150]]~~ in the first section aligned with the recess;

a release assembly ~~[[154]]~~ for coupling purposes attached to the second section, the release assembly having an exterior region ~~[[156]]~~ on the outside of the second section and a finger ~~[[158]]~~ extending inwardly of the inside of the second section through the aperture with an enlarged end ~~[[160]]~~ removably positionable in the recess of the latch; and

a secondary release assembly ~~[[174]]~~ including a slider ~~[[176]]~~ on the outside of the second section operatively coupled to the finger, the release assembly and the secondary release assembly operable concurrently for allowing separation of the finger from the recess and latch when the slider is depressed by a user and when the latch and plunger are reciprocated to the withdrawn position in response to a fingerprint of a user on the touch pad matching a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor.

3. (Currently Amended) An attache case security system ~~[[180]]~~ for maintaining an attache case locked until the

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presentation of a fingerprint of an approved user comprising, in combination:

an attache case ~~[[102]]~~ with a first section ~~[[116]]~~ and a second section~~[[118]]~~, the sections movable between a closed orientation for the secure maintenance of objects there within and an open orientation for adding and removing objects therefrom, each section having an inside ~~[[120, 122]]~~ and an outside ~~[[124, 126]]~~;

a touch pad ~~[[130]]~~ for fingerprint identification attached to the outside of the first section adapted to removably receive a fingerprint of a user;

a sensor ~~[[134]]~~ with at least one pre-stored fingerprint on the inside of the first portion operatively coupled to the touch pad and adapted to generate a signal when a fingerprint of the user on the touch pad matches a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor;

a solenoid ~~[[138]]~~ on the inside of the first section operatively coupled to the sensor, the solenoid having a plunger ~~[[140]]~~ reciprocable from a rest position to a withdrawn position in response to a signal from the sensor so long as a fingerprint of a user is on the touch pad which matches a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor, the plunger having a remote end ~~[[142]]~~;

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a latch ~~[[146]]~~ on the inside of the first section attached to the remote end of the plunger for reciprocation there with, the latch having a recess ~~[[148]]~~ therein facing the first section and an aperture ~~[[150]]~~ in the first section aligned with the recess;

a release assembly ~~[[154]]~~ for coupling purposes attached to the second section, the release assembly having an exterior region ~~[[156]]~~ on the outside of the second section and a finger ~~[[158]]~~ extending inwardly of the inside of the second section through the aperture with an enlarged end ~~[[160]]~~ removably positionable in the recess of the latch;

a supplemental release assembly ~~[[164]]~~ including a button ~~[[166]]~~ on the outside of the second section operatively coupled to the finger, the release assembly and the secondary release assembly operable for allowing separation of the finger from the recess and latch when the button is depressed by a user and when the latch and plunger are reciprocated to the withdrawn position in response to a fingerprint of a user on the touch pad matching a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor; and

a timer ~~[[168]]~~ operatively coupled to the solenoid to hold the plunger retracted for a predetermined period of time to allow a user to depress the button after a matching fingerprint of a user has been removed from the touch pad.

4. (Currently Amended) A container security system comprising:

a container with a first section and a second section;

a touch pad for fingerprint identification attached to the outside of the first section;

a sensor with at least one pre-stored fingerprint operatively coupled to the touch pad;

a solenoid coupled to the sensor and having a plunger reciprocable from a rest position to a withdrawn position in response to a signal from the sensor;

a latch attached to the remote end of the plunger having a recess therein;

a primary release assembly coupled to the second section with a finger removably positionable in the recess to maintain the container locked in a closed orientation but with the finger being readily removable from the recess to allow the container security system to assume an open orientation when the latch and plunger are reciprocated in response to a fingerprint of a user on the touch pad matching a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor;

additional release assembly operable to allow the operation of the primary release assembly.

5. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the container is a purse.

6. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the container is a suitcase.

7. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the container is an attache case.

8. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 4 ~~and further including~~ wherein the additional release assembly is a secondary release assembly ~~[[174]]~~ including a slider ~~[[176]]~~ on the outside of the second section operatively coupled to the finger, the primary release assembly and the secondary release assembly operable concurrently for allowing separation of the finger from the recess and latch when the slider is depressed by a user and when the latch and plunger are reciprocated to the withdrawn position in response to a fingerprint of a user on the touch pad matching a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor.

9. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 4 ~~and further including:~~ wherein the additional release assembly is a supplemental release assembly ~~[[184]]~~ including a button ~~[[186]]~~ on the outside of the second section operatively coupled to the finger, the primary release assembly and the secondary release assembly operable for allowing separation of the finger from the recess and latch when the button is depressed by a user and when the latch and plunger are reciprocated to the withdrawn



position in response to a fingerprint of a user on the touch pad matching a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor; and

a timer 188 operatively coupled to the solenoid to hold the plunger retracted for a predetermined period of time to allow a user to depress the button after a matching fingerprint of a user has been removed from the touch pad.